

I have to disagree with two items here.

First: The Morse code exam commonly known as element 1 should be retained; however, it should be retained only for the Extra class operator. This is the highest-class Amateur license and only the technically oriented and consummate operators should earn this license. Morse is one of the items an Extra should have to pass.

Second: There should be an easier entry class license. Basic operating, safety and regulations should be tested only. It should of course be limited in power and operating privileges. There should be some HF privileges for this new entry class license also. I have worked with many would be hams and a lot them were children. Many of them could grasp the concepts enough to operate a radio but some of the electronics and theory was too much for them. I believe that we as a service have lost out on many new, young hams because the entry-level license was just too technical. Sure lots of them could memorize the answers and pass the exam, but they didn't retain this information. There should be an entry-level license so that these new, young hams could get the basics and actually learn the material and later on they could learn the technical material and advance to the next higher license. Many of these young people would be great in many emergency communication situations and they have proven themselves as guest operators during field day and during operating events like Kid's Day.